Plainview inmate escapes, schools locked down

By Jim McBride jim.mcbride@amarillo.com

Authorities are searching for a state prison inmate who escaped Monday from an administrative prison office in Plainview.

Charlie Davis Jr, 38, is described as being 6 feet tall, 219 pounds with brown hair and hazel eyes.

Robert Hurst, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said Davis was a trusty assigned to the TDCJ Region 5 Office in Plainview and was discovered missing this morning.

“At 9:30 this morning we did a count and he was not at his assigned location,’ Hurst said. “We’re not quite sure how this happened.”

Hurst said Davis was transferred to TDCJ custody in June and was serving a two-year sentence for theft of property out of Swisher County.

Anyone with information on the location of Davis is asked to call 911 immediately, authorities said.

Police said Davis could be in the Amarillo area.

Plainview Independent School District is on lockdown and lunches delayed, according to the Plainview Daily-Herald.

Escaped killer captured
8-hour search ends 25 miles from prison

September 22, 2014

by AMANDA CASTRO-CRIST AND JC CORTEZ Amarillo Globe-News

Law enforcement officers captured a convicted killer who escaped early Monday from Nathaniel J. “Nat” Neal Unit north of Amarillo.

Marvin Garcia, 34, was captured about 11:30 a.m. north of Amarillo near U.S. Highway 287 and Canadian River Road, roughly eight hours after he escaped, said Jason Clark, a spokesman for Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Garcia was found 21 miles north of Amarillo and about 25 miles from the prison.
State prison officials will conduct a review into the incident and TDCJ's Office of Inspector General will investigate how Garcia escaped, Clark said.

"Any time we have an incident like this we would conduct a serious incident review," Clark said. "So we're going to go back and look at all the specifics to determine how it happened."

Garcia, who is from El Salvador, was sentenced to 25 years in prison for murder on June 21, 2010, in Harris County. The charge stemmed from a 2008 incident in which he beat a man multiple times in the head with a table leg, according to TDCJ files.

Garcia escaped about 3:45 a.m. by scaling a wall at the 1,732-inmate Neal Unit, three miles north of Interstate 40 at the intersection of Loop 335 and Northeast 24th Avenue. He may have escaped while he was reporting to his job in the prison cafeteria, Clark said.

A patrol officer saw Garcia escaping and fired six shots at him, Clark said. No one at the prison was injured, he said.

A green jacket and some white clothing were found in razor wire on the wall, Clark said. Some blood also was found in that area, Clark said, but it is unclear whether it was from the shots fired or the razor wire.

"The unit was immediately racked up, which means everyone was counted," Clark said. "It was determined that Marvin Garcia was the escapee."

Garcia was described as having brown eyes and brown hair in a description sent out by Texas Department of Public Safety Senior Trooper Chris Ray. Police initially sent out Garcia's mug shot, then released an updated photo with a description of Garcia as wearing glasses and having about an inch of hair.

About 11 a.m., Amarillo police were contacted by a man who reported seeing Garcia walking along railroad tracks about 1½ miles west of U.S. Highway 287, just north of the Canadian River bridge.

During the search, police told people to avoid northeast Amarillo while officers searched for Garcia on foot and horseback, police Cpl. Jerry Neufeld said.

Schools in the area increased security during the incident. Additional liaison officers were moved to schools in the area from other campuses, Neufeld said.

At Highland Park Independent School District, a Potter County sheriff's deputy was stationed on campus and buildings were searched before class began, Superintendent Buddy Freeman said. Outside doors were locked, and students were not allowed to go outside for recess and other activities, he said.

No schools in Amarillo ISD were placed on lockdown, district spokeswoman Holly Shelton said, but northeast campuses in the Palo Duro cluster were told to cancel outdoor activities.

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Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper. The first two questions can be answered in 1-2 sentences. The third question needs a full-page, well thought out response.

1. Who is the intended audience for this article, and how do you know that?
2. What was the author’s purpose for writing this article, and how do you know that?
3. This week’s AoW is actually two articles, one from 10/27/2014 and another from 9/22/2014. Think about how schools in each situation reacted. What do you think is the proper reaction for a school in a scenario like this? Explain your answer.